

November 17, 1999

Beth Bosch

ICC APPROVES PLAN TO INSTALL NEW MONITORS AT MORE THAN 800 ILLINOIS RAIL CROSSINGS

The Illinois Commerce Commission today approved an agreement with the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company and the Illinois Department of Transportation that paves the way for installation of remote monitoring devices at more than 800 signalized railroad crossings across Illinois.

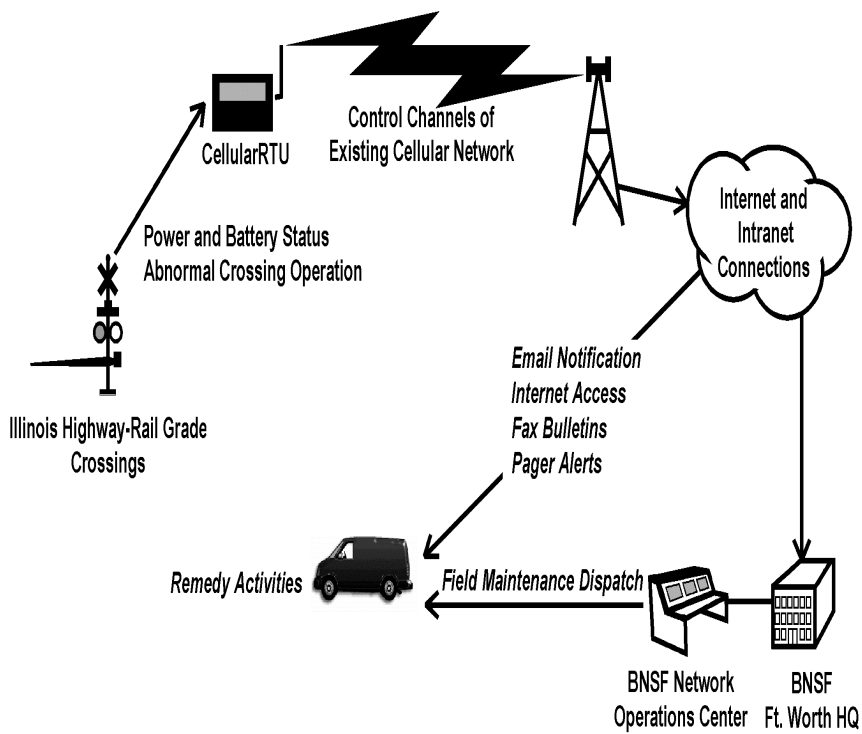
The remote monitoring devices will provide continuous monitoring of the operation of railroad warning signals, and allow for immediate electronic reporting of problems with the warning signals, including extended power failures, battery voltage limits, suspicious gate operations and excess warning operation to a 24-hour call center. Once notified of a problem at any crossing, the BNSF's 24-hour call center will dispatch a railroad signal maintainer to the crossing to make necessary repairs.

BNSF will install the remote monitoring devices at 815 signalized public highway-railroad grade crossings in Illinois. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2001. The cost of the project is estimated at \$1.78 million. Ninety percent of the project's cost will be paid by the Grade Crossing Protection Fund, administered by the ICC, and with additional state funds administered by IDOT. BNSF will pay the remainder, which includes the costs of installation as well as future maintenance.

Commission Chairman Richard Mathias said the new on-site monitoring technology will further enhance rail safety in Illinois. "I am pleased to see that such a large number of crossings will be equipped with the new technology under this project" he said. "Implementation of remote monitors will ensure that signal problems are detected and reported immediately to the railroad."

The Grade Crossing Protection Fund, which includes motor fuel taxes, was established to help pay for safety improvements at railroad grade crossings in Illinois.

For additional information contact Patrick Hiatte with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, 817-352-6418 or Dick Adorjan, Illinois Department of Transportation, 782-6953.



ScadaNET
NETWORK

Diagram courtesy of LaBarge, Inc.

